



# Waterline

For Augusta/Richmond County Residents Interested in Protecting and Conserving Water Resources

## Watershed Roundtable formed to encourage public involvement

**T**his year the Augusta Utilities Department (AUD) completed two important studies: the Watershed Assessment, which studied the condition of Augusta's streams; and the Source Water Assessment, which examined Augusta's intakes that supply drinking water. One of the reasons for the success of these studies was the involvement of members of Augusta's community organizations. This group called the Citizen Advisory Group provided advice to the AUD and represented the community's interest on each project.

With the Watershed study completed (see page 2 for study results), the focus now turns to maintaining and protecting the health of Augusta's streams. In order to accomplish that goal, effective and comprehensive public education and involvement is essential.

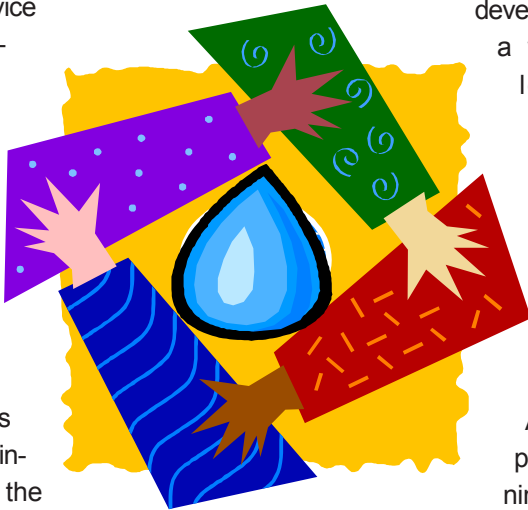
Augusta has several organizations that focus on environmental issues including Riverkeepers, the Sierra Club, the Neighborhood Associations and the SE Natural Science Academy. Because these organizations have common con-

cerns, the AUD thought it a good idea to invite members to join a committee - Watershed Roundtable. The Roundtable would seek to streamline water resource planning efforts and provide a forum for the organizations. It would also focus on ways to educate the public about the watershed and their role in keeping it healthy.

### Developing a water logo

One of the first assignments the Roundtable will undertake is developing a theme and a water resource logo. The Roundtable is sponsoring a "Design the Logo" contest among upper-grade level students at the Davidson Magnet School of Fine Art. The student producing the winning logo will receive a gift certificate donated by Bailies Art Center and will be honored at a Board of Commissioners meeting.

The logo will focus the community's attention on the importance of protecting and conserving Augusta's water resources and serve as a constant reminder that we should all use water wisely.



### Watershed Roundtable Members

**Lillian-Katherine Blanos**  
*Metro Augusta Clean and Beautiful*

**Sam W. Booher**  
*Sierra Club*

**Frank Carl**  
*Riverkeepers*

**Gene Eidson**  
*SE Natural Science Academy*

**Nathan Youngblood**  
*Greater Homebuilders Association*

**Lori Sand**  
*CSRA RCD*

**Steve Williard**  
*Fort Gordon*

**Darryl L. Brown**  
*The Neighborhood Alliance*

**George Patty**  
*Augusta Planning Commission*

**Paul DeCamp**  
*Augusta Planning Commission*

**Hameed Malik**  
*Augusta Public Works Dept.*

**Max Hicks**  
*Augusta Utilities Dept.*

**Drew Goins**  
*Augusta Utilities Dept.*

**Allen Saxon**  
*Augusta Utilities Dept.*

## Watershed Study Results Made Public

The Watershed Assessment was completed in August 2002. Ten basins within the Augusta watershed were studied. Fecal coliform bacteria were identified as the primary pollutant of concern in these basins. Fecal coliform bacteria are found in the intestinal tracts of mammals. The presence of these bacteria in water or sludge is an indicator of pollution and possible contamination by pathogens.

The potential sources of fecal coliform include human sources such as leaks from septic tanks that may

seep into streams, as well as runoff from nonhuman sources including cattle, chickens, and pets or other animals. In addition, it was discovered that phosphorous levels were higher than expected in the Spirit Creek basin.

In general, the assessment results indicate that the biological integrity of Augusta's streams is high. The only exceptions are Rocky Creek and Raes Creek. Both of these streams are located in urban areas; urbanization has a direct effect on water quality.

## Doing Your Part to Protect Augusta's Watershed

Before you can commit to protecting Augusta's watershed, it's important to understand exactly what a watershed is. Watersheds are those land areas that catch rain or snow and drain to specific marshes, streams, rivers, lakes, or to ground water. Because we all live in a watershed, our actions can directly contribute to the pollution in our watershed.

In a watershed, as the rainwater runoff moves across pavement, yards and fields, it picks up many of these pollutants and carries them to a body of water. A list of common pollutants include: trash, sewage, litter, oil, chemicals, fertilizer, pesticides, soil particles, pet wastes and acid rain.

That's why it's important that we all do our part to protect the watershed. It's simple actions that can make the difference, like picking up after your pet, disposing of trash, oil and chemicals properly, not overusing pesticides.



We should also remember that the health of Augusta's watershed can have a direct effect on continued economic development. In a recent survey, people chose clean water as the most important factor in choosing a place to live. Clean water ranked above 36 other desirable characteristics, including low crime rates, low cost of living and low unemployment.

If you want to learn more about Augusta's watershed, you can start by visiting the Watershed Information Network at [www.epa.gov/win/](http://www.epa.gov/win/).

## Easy Ways to Keep our Streams Clean...

- ☐ Buy household products labeled non-toxic, non-phosphorous or water-soluble. Toxic chemicals can harm stream life.
- ☐ Dispose of trash properly. Styrofoam and plastics can kill fish and wildlife.
- ☐ Do not dispose of solvents, hazardous chemicals or wastes in storm or home drains.
- ☐ Use pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers sparingly and only when other methods have failed.
- ☐ When watering lawn and garden, make certain the water is not landing on paved surfaces
- ☐ Do not dump used motor oil or antifreeze down storm drains.

### It's a fact

If you pour used motor oil into a storm sewer or bury it in the trash, oil can leak into lakes, rivers, and wells. Just one pint can expand over an acre of water. Used oil should be taken to a recycling center.